Rehabilitation of SSI units

2072. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps that have been taken to offset the trend of sickness in the SSI sector; and

(b) the steps that have been taken to rehabilitate SSI units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The number of sick Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has declined from 3,06,221 as at the end of March, 1999 to 1,77,336 as at the end of March, 2002 as per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from Scheduled Commercial Banks.

The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amogst the SSI units and has taken various steps to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees, Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions. Elaborate guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, concessional finance, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the scheduled commercial banks for implementation.